

Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Workshop #2 Summary

Planning Concepts

Workshop #2 summary comments

Strong workshop support

The planning concepts that received strong support enhance current types of recreation. They generally emphasize lower intensity visitor activities or intend to reduce current impacts. The exception is the Waddell Creek Road reestablishment which may require significant landform modification.

The following planning concepts received strong workshop group support (7 out of 8).

2. *Provide Alternative Camping Opportunities to Headquarters Area campgrounds*

Comments support actions to reduce impacts on habitat. There were a variety of comments about reducing or relocating camping facilities (no consensus).

5. *Reestablishment of the Waddell Creek Road for emergency/operations access.*

Comments indicate a common concern for emergency/operations vehicle access to the Waddell Creek watershed area. There was some limited support for reestablishment of the road as trail access to the wilderness area.

7. *Backcountry trails.*

Strong support.

8. *Backcountry trailheads.* Strong support for trailheads with some emphasis for China Grade Rd./Johansen Rd. intersection and Gazos Mtn. Camp locations.

10. *RDO equestrian facilities.*

Support was accompanied by comments emphasizing great regional need and that enhancements should be done sensitively with safe access.

Conditional workshop support or mixed response

The planning concepts that receive conditional/moderate support were split between resource preservation concepts and recreation/interpretation enhancements at RDO/Waddell Beach. These concepts would have greater support if specific comments/concerns are addressed.

The following planning concepts received moderate/conditional support or a mixed response (4 to 6 out of 8)

1. *Protect HQ Old Growth habitat with expanded management practices, rotating or relocating facilities to reduce impacts.*

Although there was partial workgroup support (5:3), there was a mixed response on changes in camping facilities/HQ development and access. There was a general comment consensus that there should be additional management actions to reduce impacts on habitat.

4. *More Preserves in the Backcountry area.*

Some feel there are already sufficient protections for resources in the park. Some were concerned designation would preclude trails or visitor access in backcountry area.

9. *RDO/Waddell Beach day use facilities.*

Moderate support for day use improvements but mixed response on specifics of improvements.

12. *RDO/Waddell Beach Nature Center.*

Moderate support for limited improvements.

Weak workshop support or opposition

The following planning concepts received weak workgroup support (3 or less out of 8).

3. *Establish an historic district in the Headquarters area.*

There were supportive comments for rehabilitation and use of the Old Lodge building but there is concern about additional development.

6. *Increase the size of the wilderness.*

Weak support and some expressed opposition to expanding the wilderness area. There was some concern for visitor access and affects on adjacent property owners to areas considered for wilderness designation.

11. *Provide additional overnight facilities in the RDO/Waddell Beach area*

Weak support. Mixed comments included some conditional support for limited development.

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Planning Concept	Description
1 Old Growth Redwoods	Protect the old growth redwood habitat with expanded management practices, rotating use and/or removal of facilities to reduce congestion and impacts.
2 Overnight Camping	Consider providing additional overnight camping outside of the HQ area to increase recreation opportunities and compensate for the possible reduction in the old growth area.
3 Historic District	Consider establishing a "Historic District" of approximately 10 acres (out of the 1200 acres of old growth in the HQ area) to recreate a "sense of place" that represents the visitor experience and legacy of the 1930's.
4 Preserves	Consider creating additional Natural Preserves.
5 Waddell Creek Road	Address erosion of Waddell Creek Road between Twin Redwoods and Camp Herbert.
6 Wilderness	Consider increasing the size of the West Waddell Creek State Wilderness.
7 Trailheads	Consider creating and/or enhancing trailhead access and small picnic facilities outside of the old growth redwoods.
8 Trails	Consider enhancing trail opportunities and regional trail connections.
9 Day Use Facilities	Consider improvements to RDO and Waddell Beach day use facilities.
10 Equestrian Facilities	Consider enhancing equestrian facilities.
11 Overnight Facilities	Consider adding overnight camping to the RDO area.
12 Nature Center	Consider adding facilities to the Nature Center complex.

Work Group	Issue											
	Headquarters Area			Backcountry/Wilderness Area					RDO/Waddell Beach Area			
	1 Old Growth Redwoods	2 Overnight Camping	3 Historic District	4 Preserves	5 Waddell Creek Rd.	6 Wilderness	7 Trailheads	8 Trails	9 Day Use Facilities	10 Equestrian Facilities	11 Overnight Facilities	12 Nature Center
A												
B												
C												
D												
E												
F												
G												
H												

 Work Group Supported Concept

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Issue 1	HQ Area	Old Growth Redwoods
Protect the old growth redwood habitat with expanded management practices, rotating use and/or removal of facilities to reduce congestion and impacts.		
Possible Actions could Include:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand management practices to protect old growth redwood habitat and allow existing campgrounds to remain in use Periodically close campground loops and/or specific campsites to permit rehabilitation projects Permanently remove campsites (from 181 existing campsites) from old growth redwood habitat Relocate campground check-in and develop new contact station near Hwy 236 south at park entrance. Determine feasibility for a shuttle system to the Headquarters area. Remove parking from the headquarters area. Reduce N. Escape Road day use parking/ picnic facilities (from 125 sites to 80 -100 sites) from old growth redwood habitat Relocate park store to Hwy 236 south near park entrance. Relocate misc. trailheads to bypass the immediate headquarters area. 		

Work Group	Concept Support	Comments
A		1. What is meant by the term "management practices" is unclear.
B		1. Address soil compaction in closed campsites. 2. Do not increase density of campsites in Huckleberry and Wastashi 3. Purchase HP property for rotational camping. 4. Add park entrance facilities at north and south end of HWY 236.
C		1. Corved management - deal with crows and jays 2. Move campsites to second growth forest areas, instead of the Old Growth areas. But, if environmental impact to move campsites is too great, do not move them. 3. No on first bullet item (expand mgmt. practices & continue existing campground use). 4. Permit and rotation on bullet items 2 & 3. 5. Issue requires specific study.
D		1. 3 group members in favor of #3: removing campsites and relocating to less sensitive areas. 2. 1 member in favor of expanded management practices (#1).
E		1. Agree with reduction of impact but do want access restricted. 2. Most of group members wanted a balance between parking and shuttle service. 3. Is it possible to increase areas for dog owners, especially open to dogs with horses. 4. Suggest mini-trails (shorter in length) for children. Can trees and plants be labeled?
F		1. Expand management practices.
G		1. If you do nothing else, relocate park store to HWY 236 south at park entrance. 2. Remove some campsites from Old Growth area and relocate elsewhere in less rare area. (2:2 split in group)
H		1. Comprehensive study of Marbled Murrelet is needed prior to taking any management action, limit visitor usage.

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Issue 2	HQ Area	Overnight Camping
Consider providing additional overnight camping outside of the HQ area to increase recreation opportunities and compensate for the possible reduction in the old growth area.		
<u>Possible Locations Could Include:</u> (A) Gazos Mountain Camp (Butano State Park) (B) Peninsula Open space Trust property at Cloverdale Coastal Ranch (C) Ano Nuevo State Park (D) Near HWY 236 south at park entrance.		

Work Group	Concept Support	Comments
A		1. Ranked by priority: Locations A & D, then B & C
B		1. Location D (HWY 236 @ park entrance) is preferred if HP property is acquired. 2. Location C is acceptable
C		1. Keep campsites in second growth redwood areas, avoid campsites in Old Growth stands. 2. Issue requires specific study.
D		1. Group generally supported this concept especially in light of Issue #1, bullet item 3 (remove campsites from Old Growth redwood habitat).
E		1. Worries about staffing if more campsites were added outside outside of the Headquarters area. 2. Provide adequate parking.
F		
G		1. Group agrees, as long as there are no old growth redwoods in those areas.
H		1. Additional camping and day use facilities should be considered to meet the need of an increasing population.

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Issue 3	HQ Area	Historic District
Consider establishing a “Historic District” of approximately 10 acres (out of the 1200 acres of old growth in the Headquarters area) to recreate a “sense of place” that represents the visitor experience and legacy of the 1930’s.		
Possible Actions could Include:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility for facilities to provide food services based on historic uses at the Old Lodge. Recreate the historic dinning hall and patio area with a pergola. Old Lodge to be used for park office space, staff meeting and staff training area Old Lodge to be used for special events and school environmental education programs Construct a 30-bed dormitory (based on an historic structure that has been removed) to support environmental living programs near the restored Old Lodge Reconstruct the appropriate number of cabins in the approximate historic area for overnight use. 		

Work Group	Concept Support	Comments
A		1. Need more information e.g. funding 2. Possibly renovate the Old Lodge building instead of building new structures. 3. Do we want to build in the Old Growth forest area?
B		1. Use Old Lodge for educational programs 2. Historically, people were moved out of the basin in winter due to the hazard of tree falls - doesn't make sense to add facilities.
C		1. No on bullet items 1, 4, and 5. 2. OK on bullet items 2 and 3. Don't increase facility footprints. 3. No on Historic District possibility. This would increase impacts and remove natural areas. Concern about carrying capacity of existing sewer system. 4. No increase in facilities. 5. Issue requires specific study.
D		
E		1. Strongly infavor of "sense of place" historic preservation. This should be a definite factor in planning.
F		1. No dining - all. 2. No re-development in Headquarters Old Growth area; but establish elsewhere outside of Old Growth area (particularly dorms, etc.).
G		1. Division (2:2) in our group on whether or not to do this. 2. One member would like to see the lodge used as a place to display the history of the park.
H		1. Rebuild the Lodge Building and consider additional tent cabins.

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Issue 4	<i>Backcountry</i>	<i>Preserves</i>
Consider creating additional Natural Preserves		
<u>Possible Actions Could Include:</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate Santa Cruz Cypress habitat as a Natural Preserve • Designate Monterey Pine habitat as a Natural Preserve 		

Work Group	Concept Support	Comments
A		1. What does it mean when you preserve an area?
B		1. Support designation only if recreational trails and management actions can occur within the preserves (including prescribe fires).
C		1. Seems to be protected already in Hoover Natural Preserve. 2. Issue requires specific study.
D		1. 1 member opposed to designating additional preserves. 2. (Other members) support with the caveat that these preserves do not exclude multi-use trails.
E		
F		
G		1. Designate Santa Cruz Cypress habitat as a Natural Preserve. 2. No more Monterey Pine needed.
H		1. Cypress already has federal protection. 2. No Monterey Pine preservation is needed.

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Issue 5	Backcountry	<i>Preserves</i>
Address erosion of Waddell Creek Road between Twin Redwoods and Camp Herbert		
<u>Possible Actions Could Include:</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair multiple slide locations and reopen road for service and emergency vehicles. Close road north of slide locations to vehicular access and maintain as trail. 		

Work Group	Concept Support	Comments
A		1. Leave it as it is - need more information from CDF.
B		1. Needs to be reopened to provide access for maintenance and fire protection and prevent State Park use of adjacent private land for emergency and maintenance actions. Original trail was to be constructed on the west side. This trail should be constructed to allow hikers to be off the maintenance trail.
C		1. Unanimous (support) for fire and other emergency access. 2. Good handicap accessible trail and mountain bike access to wilderness. 3. Issue requires specific study.
D		1. All members in favor of repairing and re-opening the road for fire protection and emergency vehicle access.
E		1. Group consensus for repairing road. 2. Two members felt it should be a trail, not a road (no vehicular access).
F		1. Need access road for emergency vehicles only, put up gate and stabilize road.
G		1. Close road and maintain as a trail.
H		1. Repair the road for fire access and public safety.

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Issue 6	Backcountry	Wilderness
Consider increasing size of the West Waddell Creek State Wilderness		
Possible Actions Could Include:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Wilderness area by 500 acres. • Increase Wilderness area by over 4000 acres. Eliminate mechanized use on Gazos Creek road due to wilderness expansion. • Include segment of West Waddell Creek road. (located north of Camp herbert) within Wilderness boundary (remove cherry stem) thus eliminating mechanized access (no mtn. biking or vehicular access) 		

Work Group	Concept Support	Comments
A		1. How would you eliminate mountain bikes?
B		1. 4 group members agree to add 500 acres to south of Gazos Creek. 2. 2 group members oppose expansion of all wilderness 3. All members oppose increasing wilderness to 4,000 acres and west of Waddell Creek Road
C		1. Bullet item 1 (increase wilderness by 500 acres) is maybe OK. 2. Concerned about putting more area into wilderness or preserve designation and losing accessibility. How permanent is this possibility? 3. Issue requires specific study.
D		1. All 4 members opposed to wilderness expansion either by 500 or more acres (keep it the same size).
E		1. Group agreed to increase wilderness by 500 acres.
F		1. Expand wilderness to 4,000 acres without impacting adjacent private property, gain approval of residents and private parcel owners beforehand.
G		Total agreement
H		1. Increase wilderness area by 500 acres. Do not remove the "Cherry Stem". 2. No on bullet item 3.

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Issue 7	Backcountry	<i>Trailheads</i>
Consider providing additional overnight camping outside of the HQ area to increase recreation opportunities and compensate for the possible reduction in the old growth area.		
<u>Possible Locations Could Include:</u> (A) Intersection of China Grade Road and Johansen Road (B) Whitehouse Canyon Road (Ano Nuevo State Park) (C) Gazos Mountain Camp (Butano State Park)		

Work Group	Concept Support	Comments
A		1. Yes for areas A. and C., need more information for area B. 2. Where would trail from WHC (Whitehouse Creek) begin?
B		
C		1. Need horse trailer staging in areas besides H.Q. 2. Concerns for maintenance and monitoring. 3. Issue requires specific study.
D		1. All 4 members in favor of concept. Support locations A & C. Not sure about location C...questionable...conflict with neighbors.
E		1. Good idea, provide good parking.
F		1. Get neighborhood consensus on plan.
G		Total agreement
H		

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Issue 8	Backcountry	Trails
Consider enhancing trails opportunities and regional trail connections.		
Possible Actions Could Include:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage regional regional trail connections by pursuing multi-use (hiking, equestrian, mt. bike) trail easements and land acquisitions from willing sellers. And so Publicize multi-use (hiking, equestrian, mt. bike) trail opportunities using existing surfaced and non-surfaced roads. Consider allowing mt. bike use on short segments of existing single track trails where conditions permit and loop trail connections can be enhanced. 		

Work Group	Concept Support	Comments
A		1. Yes to bullet items 1 & 2, no to bullet item 3. 2. How does (mountain bike & equestrian use of) single track trails affect enforcement and damage to trails?
B		1. No mountain bike use on single track trails
C		1. In favor of bullet item 1 from willing sellers. 2. Bullet item 3: Do not publicize allowing limited mountain bike use of single track trail segments. 3. No mountain bikes on single track trails - horses are OK. 4. Issue requires specific study.
D		1. 3 members in favor of concept and the 3 possible actions. 2. 1 member, a horseman, is guarded about allowing bicycles on single track trails that are now used by horsemen. 3. 1 member, a mountain biker, wants long distance single-track access for bikes. 4. 1 person has a strong interest in regional multi-use narrow trails, doesn't want to see bikes forced onto roads (dirt or paved) if single-track trails are available. Better trail design may be needed to prevent user conflicts.
E		1. Good idea.
F		1. On public land - absolutely yes. 2. On or through private parcels, (there should be) scrupulous care of roads. 3. Trails must be monitored to ensure people stay on trails, absolute approval by private property owners affected is necessary.
G		1. Short segments would not be useful to mountain bikes. No enthusiasm (in group) - not necessary to us.
H		

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Issue 9	RDO/WB	Day Use Facilities
Consider improvements to RDO and Waddell Beach day use facilities		
Possible Actions could Include:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign both NW and SE entrances to RDO to improve vehicle access and park entrance aesthetics, sense of place and gateway identity. • Redesign and enhance the entrance, bus stop, parking and restroom facilities at Waddell Beach. • Relocate ranger station to improve visitor contact and information distribution and fee collection and protect viewshed. • Add day use picnic facilities. 		

Work Group	Concept Support	Comments
A		
B		1. Concern on doing improvements on State Lands, as some areas are private lands.
C		1. RDO entrances are OK as is. 2. Do not add day use picnic facilities 3. Supports Waddell Beach entrance, access, and restroom improvements. 4. There will be too much impact if more facilities are moved out to the highway. 5. No car camping. 6. Issue requires specific study.
D		1. All members are in favor of all improvement possibilities.
E		1. Upgrade parking and facilities - relocate ranger station.
F		1. Controversy
G		1. This would be great!
H		1. Don't relocate ranger station.

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Issue 10	<i>RDO/WB</i>	<i>Equestrian Facilities</i>
Consider enhancing equestrian facilities		
Possible Actions could Include:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade existing equestrian camping facilities at RDO • Add trailhead parking on inland side of HWY 1 near NW entrance to include equestrian trailer parking. • Relocate equestrian camping at RDO to another improved and suitable location in adjacent State Parks • Improve trailhead/equestrian trailer parking. 		

Work Group	Concept Support	Comments
A		
B		
C		1. Bullet item 1 is OK (upgrade existing equestrian facilities), but (they should be) close to the river. 2. Parking (would be) good further in than where it is now. 3. A good horse camp somewhere in the district would be a great asset. Look at Jack Brooks. 4. Issue requires specific study.
D		1. Yes, consider enhancing equestrian facilities. Concept needs study. 2. Possibility of creating a horse and pedestrian crossing attached to existing highway bridge across Waddell creek. 3. There is a great need for staging areas for equestrians. There are few riders because there are no places to unload horses. Big Basin has some of the greatest horse trails anywhere, but there are few, if any, places to bring horses and unload them. RDO has the only staging area and it is quite small. Parking on the ocean side and crossing Highway 1 is a very dangerous practice.
E		1. Upgrade facilities and make them more user friendly. 2. Use volunteer labor. 3. Don't give tickets to trailers parked in area.
F		
G		1. Wherever you hike on equestrian trail, there are tons of flies! 2. Please, more clearly confine horses to fireroads.
H		

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Issue 11	<i>RDO/WB</i>	<i>Overnight Facilities</i>
Consider adding overnight camping to the RDO area		
Possible Actions could Include:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide small non-RV overnight camping at RDO 		

Work Group	Concept Support	Comments
A		1. Sufficient camping already exists in the RDO area.
B		1. No car camping - keep only as a backcountry area.
C		1. No drive-in camping. No additional drive-in campground. 2. Additional backpacking is OK 3. Issue requires specific study.
D		1. One member strongly opposed to this concept.
E		1. Agree with concept, but consider RV accessibility but dry (no RV facilities).
F		1. No
G		1. Overnight facilities would be nice. 2. Group agreement - especially if (additional camping is) near to the Nature Center complex.
H		1. Limited size overnight facilities should be considered.

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Issue 12	<i>RDO/WB</i>	<i>Nature Center</i>
Consider adding facilities to the Nature Center complex		
Possible Actions could Include:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide restrooms adjacent to the Nature Center complex. • Provide outdoor meeting area/amphitheater adjacent to the Nature Center. • Improve Add additional parking adjacent to the Nature Center. 		

Work Group	Concept Support	Comments
A		
B		
C		1. Restrooms (composting or vault type) adjacent to the Nature Center are OK 2. No additional parking at the Nature Center. 3. Concern for water quality - for facilities only. 4. Issue requires specific study.
D		1. One member finds this concept questionable in view of budget cuts. 2. One member believes volunteers should be mobilized to overcome budget restraints.
E		1. Preserve historic character. 2. Provide parking 3. Develop an appropriate architectural style for park (similar to but not a duplicate of the 1930's style).
F		
G		1. Yes, especially if additional facilities are campsites and a little store!
H		1. Limited new facilities should be considered.